
City of Thomasville

From the Mayor's Office

Sheldon A. Day, Mayor

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Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 22, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Thomasville – a town of nearly 4,500 in the southwest corner of Alabama – prides itself on its heritage and lifestyle. We strike a balance between small-town hospitality and a forward-looking view. As the Mayor of Thomasville, I very much support this merger and think you should approve it. Let me give you a couple of reasons why.

At the moment, the town has \$400 million in ongoing economic development. We are pleased that international companies are now locating in our area, including a Canadian steel plant and a Chinese pipe factory. This is a huge boon for employment in the county and testimony to the many resources we are able to offer.

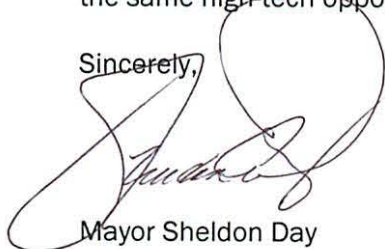
However, our success comes with obligations. International companies expect the high-tech offerings for communications. From what I am told, the state-of-the-art at the moment are wireless, broadband networks called “4G” representing the latest generation of speed and capability. More and more it seems, companies expect their people to be on the move, yet connected to their bosses, files and colleagues.

If Thomasville and surrounding Clarke do not get the 4G upgrade soon, we will have difficulty attracting more development to the area and risk failure in retaining those companies that are already here.

This advanced network is also important for education. Young people who perhaps have had to drop out of school to help their families may yet still want to earn diplomas through Internet courses, perhaps even delivered into their mobile phones.

These networks are so vital that it is hard for me to imagine any part of the country that should not have the same high-tech opportunities.

Sincerely,



Mayor Sheldon Day
Thomasville, Alabama

Copies to: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell

